

A Candidate for Congress

Sketch of the life of the Prairie Herdsman, Farmer Lad, Manufacturer, Friend of Labor and Farmer, Leader of Men.

Born and Reared on the Western Prairie.
Like many another successful American citizen, Lewis Alonso Sears of Chillicothe, Ohio, to everybody known as "Lon" Sears, has risen from the ranks.

His struggle for advancement, and his final achievement of moderate success, is not unlike that of the truly big men of the country.

Born and reared in Kansas, he began life as a farmer lad, at a time when the elements in that state seemed adverse to agricultural success and the country was in the transition stage between the grazing prairie and the fenced farm-land. Crop failures, droughts and pests year after year tried men's souls, and amid the stirring scenes of his boyhood he learned the lessons of patience and perseverance.

His birth place is Lawrence in Douglas County, Kansas, and his natal day was the 15th of August, 1860.

His Parents Eastern People.

His father, Charles May Sears, had moved west from his home in Lewis county, New York state, in the November of 1856, settling first in Iowa.

Two years before that date Mr. Sears, the father, was united in marriage with Mary Ann Smith at her home in Catskill, New York, and after three years in Iowa state they journeyed south to the rolling prairies of Kansas, and took up a land claim in the up-lands near the valley of the River Kaw.

Lon Sears' parents back home were of gentle and refined families, and their early education and training in York state left a noble impress on their off-spring.

The elder Mr. Sears in his first years in the Sunflower state, met with all the misfortunes and disasters that at that period befell the farmers of the region; and to gain a better livelihood he taught school at Hesper Academy, and later became a general contractor and builder in that part of the state, in addition to his agricultural pursuits.

His Father a Veteran.

Charles M. Sears, as Captain, receiving his commission from Gov. Robinson, organized a cavalry company in November, 1862, and served in the putting down of Quantrill's Raid at Lawrence and in 1864 he enlisted with Company E of the 17th Kansas Volunteer Infantry, which was honorably discharged at Leavenworth, about the close of the Civil war.

Lon Sears, Farmer and Herdsman.

"Lon" as a boy worked as all country boys do, except that in the frontier days in Kansas the subject of this sketch, was given the work of a man, long before he became a mature youth.

In common with the boys born and reared on what then was the frontier, he roamed the plains with the herd and became proficient in the raising of cattle. At the age of thirteen the work of superintending the family farm fell on his shoulders, owing to the frequently enforced absence of his father.

Surrounded by the Shawnee Indian Reservation, which still preserved its full quota of red men, the neighborhood was in constant touch with the athletic, outdoor men of the plains.

Small wonder is it that in his teens he became a hardened frontier lad.

Between seasons, and when he could, he attended the prairie-school, and with the assistance of his father's knowledge, he early obtained a fundamental training.

With such an early experience, Lon Sears has that "common sense" possessed by self-made men, and no one in Chillicothe is his peer in the possession of practical and useful knowledge.

Later in his boyhood he worked his own way through the advanced schools of Lawrence, and has since been a close student of books and current literature.

He Digs Coal as a Miner.

There is one avocation which Lon Sears followed, which shows the dogged determination of the man.

His father in 1866 along with Thomas Rayson leased a small coal mine on Spring Creek in Douglas County, from Frederick Litchfield, and during the winter months, for four or five years, Mr. Sears Sr., and his associate, themselves, dug coal and furnished fuel to the countryside.

In 1874 when Lon Sears was but fourteen years old, a small coal mine on the Norton farm near Bellevue, Kansas, having been opened, the boy became a miner in company with the neighborhood youths.

For several years during periods of four months in each season, he worked a thin vein of coal, often not over 12 inches in thickness. The appliances in those days were simple and non-productive of great results.

A well-like hole was the shaft, and the windlass was the hoist. No modern system of pipe drainage existed, and when the entries and mine rooms filled with water, the boy miners used the hand pump and frequently the coal-tub, to relieve the situation.

His mine chums were John Collier who had dug coal in Pennsylvania, and Tom and Robert Joy, who had been reared in the Hocking Valley in Ohio, and who often taunted the Kansas diggers with stories of thick veins in their native states.

Having learned how to forge and temper his own pick, to timber his entries and accomplish those things that thin-vein miners must do, it is not unreasonable to suppose that were he called upon to consider the needs of the men who work in the dark he would be able to understand their demands and warmly sympathize with their hardships.

Lon Sears learned the value of a day's work, when under ground, he dug coal in Kansas.

Family Engages in a New Business.

His father in these years grew in the estimation of his fellowmen and having served several terms as Justice of the Peace for his township, was elected as a member of the state legislature.



L. A. SEARS, Chillicothe, Ohio.

The present justice-code of Kansas is founded on the act which Charles M. Sears introduced when he was a member of the general assembly.

Charles M. Sears in 1876 began the raising of sweet-corn in Kansas, and soon became a larger shipper of the product for seed and table purposes, until the year 1882 when he removed with his family (except Lon) to Circleville, Ohio, where he became interested in the C. E. Sears Canning Factory which bore his brother's name.

He Goes to Michigan and Marries.

Lon Sears then went to Three Rivers, Michigan to take charge of The Sears Canning Company, remaining until 1891, when he came to Ohio to become a partner in the firm of Sears and Nichols, Cannery, of Chillicothe, Ohio.

While a resident of Three Rivers he served as a member of its school-board, water commission and was the Chief of the volunteer fire-department. With his own hands he trained the team of horse-drawn wagons that won the world's record in a contest at Elkhart, Indiana, where met the fire chiefs in convention.

In the year 1884 Lon Sears married Miss Inez Taber, a daughter of Hon. T. E. Taber, one of the earliest settlers of Lawrence, Kansas, and a man of standing and influence in that community.

Of this union there are two children, Miss Inez an accomplished and attractive young lady, who has just won the gold medal for highest proficiency in music at St. Marys of the Springs, Columbus, Ohio, and a son Leslie, who is hard at work at the Ohio State University, where he is easily the most popular boy in his division.

L. A. Sears' eight years in Michigan, were years of hard work, mastering the new industry of preserving cereals, fruits and vegetables.

Pioneers in the Canning Industry.

It may not be generally known, but the modern system and method of canning, is not more than forty years old.

The first canners of note were in Maine, and then came the several factories of the Sears and Nichols in the West.

To the Sears family and Mr. Nichols, the perfection of this canning industry in no small part can be attributed.

Quick to adopt the new ideas of others and invent contrivances of merit, they have reared industries, that are potent factors in the communities where they operate.

In the canning of peas, corn, tomatoes, string navy and lima beans, pumpkins and all kinds of berries, the concern has a national reputation.

Factories Employ many Laborers.

Their factories in Michigan at the town of Pentwater and their plants in Ohio at Chillicothe and Frankfort employ in the busy seasons of the year fully 1800 men and women.

In all these, Lon Sears is conceded to be the master mind. No process of the work is unknown to him, from the huller to the counting room. His employees are a unit, as to his being both fair and considerate.

Few manufacturers enjoy the unique distinction that he does in never having had a strike in his factories nor a quarrel with his wage earners.

All his life a laborer himself, he believes that good wages keep good men, and his company stands at the head of the canning industry in its pay-roll.

A Great Help to Farmers.

The farmers and truck gardeners of fully 7500 acres in the communities in which his company operates, have a market for their fruits and vegetables, and the amount of money paid them for their crops, and the wages paid the factory hands, is an element of the success of these towns.

Is Recognized as a Master Canner

Recognizing his ability, the Western Cannery Association has

A Life History, briefly told; full of romantic episodes; interesting to any reader; a typical American, risen from the ranks.

made him their President on several occasions, and at present he is the 1st Vice President of the National Cannery Association, which in due time will no doubt elect him their President.

To Lon Sears the eaters of canned goods in America owe no little gratitude. He has stood for clean and healthy preserves.

His Company Farms and Runs a Dairy.

Besides farming over 500 acres of land belonging to the company, it leases 1000 acres, for the growing of its needed product.

Just south of Chillicothe is a model dairy, where 100 cows give the milk, which the company sells in that city.

The Sears Family are Prominent.

Mr. Charles M. Sears died in 1900, in his adopted home in Ohio, leaving his wife, a daughter and his four sons to survive him.

His widow is one of Chillicothe's most cultured and refined women.

Their daughter, Emma is Mrs. F. M. Nichols of Chillicothe, the wife of the man who early associated himself with the Sears family in the present business.

Lon Sears' three brothers are:—

William Sears now living at Pentwater Michigan, connected with the canning factory, having previously been private secretary, to U. S. Senator Harris, of Kansas; Walter J. Sears one of Chillicothe's leading young men, interested in the canning company, having held several city offices with rare credit and at present a Trustee of the Ohio State University; and Clarence Sears likewise a Chillicothean, President of its Board of Trade, and connected with the factory of his brothers.

Schooled in the advanced thought of the west, the Sears family, have been known in Ohio, as leaders in modern pursuits of political economy and good government.

Lon Sears, a Leader of Men.

Grounded in the essentials of worldly knowledge, Lon Sears has the elements of a leader of men.

Conscious of his power, he has that modesty and unassuming manner, that men who "do things" possess.

He is as common as a real gentleman can be, and as polished as such always are.

Blessed with good nature, a giant in physical make-up, with an unruly shock of fiery red hair on a handsome head, a hearty laugh and earnest hand shake, he has no acquaintances, but only friends.

Mr. Sears is in no sense a capitalist, but in addition to his cunning interests, he has patriotically assumed his share of the enterprises of the city of his present abode.

Fraternal with his Fellow-man

His business requiring travel and personal solicitation, he, years ago, became affiliated with the order of the United Commercial Travelers, and today is one of its most enthusiastic members.

The benevolent Protective Order of Elks know him to be an exemplar of all their highest qualifications, and in and out of the lodge he is a worthy, brother. While in Three Rivers, Michigan he joined the Knights of Pythias and is still a member in good standing.

Early in life he became associated with the Masonic fraternities, and, as a Knight Templar, he is one of its distinguished members.

A Christian gentleman, he denies no creed of right of worship, although he attends with his wife and two children St. Paul's Episcopal church of Chillicothe, Ohio.

Has Political Views.

Democratic in everything he espoused the doctrines of the Democratic Party and has been one of its valuable advisers in Ross County. While this is true, he is not an offensive or bitter partisan, and this is evidenced by his acknowledged popularity among men of every political faith.

Lon Sears has never been known as a politician or an office-seeker.

His life has been one long up-hill struggle, with newly added business burdens so engaging his every moment, that it was out of the question for him to take an active part in politics.

Is Nominated for Congress.

When the recent Democratic Congressional Convention for the eleventh district of Ohio was called to meet on June 3rd, 1908, at Lancaster, the name of Mr. Sears was frequently mentioned in connection with Congressional honors. Hearing of it, he sent for his friends and absolutely forbade the use of his name.

When the Ross County delegation went to Lancaster to attend the convention it had no candidate, but the other counties of the district had heard of his favorite son.

In spite of his home county's protest he was unanimously nominated. While the convention was in session, Mr. Sears was hard at work in the Frankfort factory ignorant of having been drafted into service by the 235 delegates from the counties of Fairfield, Hocking, Perry, Vinton, Athens, Meigs and Ross.

On the evening of that day he arrived home just as the delegation from Ross County returned.

Headed by a band and in a blaze of red fire and roman candles, the representatives of his county, joined by a large delegation of his neighbors, marched to his home, where he was persuaded to accept the nomination.

The Ideal Candidate.

Mr. Sears is an easy and convincing talker.

Ripe in his experience as a farmer, a miner, a manufacturer, and a thorough business man, he needs no schooling in the art of administering public affairs.

Justly it can be said, that he is "the candidate for all the people."

In Memory of Mrs. Andrew Rauber.

When the angel of death appears it is indeed hard to give up our loved ones, and although we weep when we look upon their form for the last time upon this earth, we need not weep as those who have no hope, for we know that our earthly loss is their heavenly gain, and they are reaping the golden harvest where there is neither sorrow nor pain. Although death visited us twice in the past nine months it again pleased the Lord to call another in the person of our aged grandmother to her eternal rest.

Anne Margaret Hengst, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Hengst, was born Feb. 27, 1834 in Dollar, Prussia, Germany. Departed this life June 28, 1908. Aged 74 years and 4 months.

She gave her trust to God and became a member of the Evangelical Church. She ever remained a faithful member, and was never known to be unnecessarily absent at the place of worship. She was united in marriage to Andrew Rauber in 1854. This happy union was blessed with two sons and two daughters, both sons having preceded her to the Great beyond.

She was a kind and loving wife, mother and friend. It was her great delight to be able to visit the sick and help the needy.

She leaves to mourn their loss an aged husband, two daughters, five grandchildren and many relatives and friends among whom she will be sadly missed.

She was the last of a family of eight children to pass to the Great beyond. She was afflicted with blood poison, caused by treating a corn some time ago, and should you chance to speak to her of her afflictions she would answer by referring to others who suffered more and say, "It could be much worse, I am better off than they." About three weeks ago she was compelled to go to bed, and although suffering intense pain she murmured not, but placed her trust in Him who said, "Take up thy cross and follow me."

When but two years of age she came with her parents to this country and for a time resided in Lancaster, later moving on a farm near Ewing. After marriage Mr. and Mrs. Rauber resided on the farm now owned by Mr. W. H. and Andrew Rauber until 1882, when they moved to their beautiful country home near Logan.

We will miss her yet we will place our hope and trust in Him who pisseth all understanding and He will lead us all safely o'er life's rugged pathway.

We mourn not for she hath found
Purer skies and holier ground.
Flowers of truth and pleasant hue
Free from thorns and fresh with dew.

We mourn not for she hath fled
From this region of the dead
To a winged angel-band,
To a better, fairer land.

There knowledge is that clime doth grow
Free from weeds of toil and woe,
Joys which mortals cannot share,
We mourn not for she's there.

We laid so calmly in the grave
Her form whereof no doubt we have
That it shall rise again that day,
In glorious triumph o'er decay.

And so to earth again we trust,
What came from dust and turns to dust,
And from the dust shall surely rise
In glorious triumph through the skies.

Her soul is living now in God,
Whose grace His path hath bestowed,
Who through His son redeemed her here,
From the bonds of Satan, sin and fear.

Her trials and her griefs are past
A blessed end is hers at last,
She bore Christ's yoke and obeyed His will,
And though she died she liveth still.

She lives where none do mourn and weep,
And calmly shall her body sleep
Till God, Himself, shall death destroy
And raise it into endless joy.

She suffers no pain and grief below,
Christ heals her now from all this woe.
For her path endless joy begun
She shines in glory like the sun.

Then let us leave her to her rest,
And homeward turn for she is best,
Let us well our souls prepare
When death shall come to meet her there.

CARD OF THANKS.

We wish to extend our most hearty thanks to the friends and neighbors for their kindness shown in sickness, death and burial of our beloved wife and mother.

THE BEHEAVED FAMILY.

DO YOU KNOW
THE WET WEATHER
COMFORT AND
PROTECTION
afforded by a
SLICKER?
Clean - Light
Durable
Guaranteed
Waterproof
\$3.99
Everywhere

RACES!

Biggest entry list ever known. Best Purses; Best Track in Southern Ohio; Fast Horses. Result--Records Made and Records Broken.

LOGAN, OHIO, AUGUST 5, 6, 7 AND 8, 1908

THE DEMOCRAT-SENTINEL \$1.00 A YEAR

PROBATE COURT

First partial account of A. W. Mauk administrator of the estate of Hannah Wilson, deceased heard July 10, 1908 and approved.

Temporary restraining order granted in case of John Wellman and J. Collins vs Chas. Kennard.

Temporary restraining order granted in case of Luther C. Martin against Edna A. Martin in proceedings for divorce.

Temporary restraining order in case of Wm. Watte et al against Andrew Roop.

Application for the appointment of an administrator of the estate of Noah Mathias filed. Declination filed by next of kin recommending the appointment of I. J. Mathias as administrator. Bond ordered in the sum of \$550. Bond approved and letters issued.

MARRIAGE LICENSES.

Jacob Kleinschmidt and Myrtle Martin, both of Logan.

Brice G. Tucker and Bessie E. Turner, both of Haydenville.

J. S. Turner and Marinda Lehman, both of Haydenville.

Dana Windsor, Nelsonville, and Nella McClain, Mt. Zion.

War Against Consumption

All nations are endeavoring to check the ravages of consumption, the "white plague" that claims so many victims each year. Foleys Honey and Tar cures coughs and colds perfectly and you are in no danger of consumption. Do not risk your health by taking some unknown preparation when Foleys Honey and Tar is safe and certain in results. The genuine is in a yellow package. Bort & Co.

POLLY: Gold Medal Flour makes baking easy. THEREA.

Revenge

Although we have been silent for some time we will endeavor to let you know we are still alive. The dry weather was checked Sunday by a hard shower which has been followed by a like one every day since.

Fred Wagner and family of Bunker Hill, called on Michael Stoneburner's, Sunday.

Miles Moore, the Dry Goods man of Buena Vista, was on our streets Tuesday.

Miss Jennie Huffman visited at Clearport, Monday.

Mrs. Samuel Cisco has been delivering peaches in our valley the past week.

Jacob Wagner, of Clearport, is threshing in our vicinity this week.

Doc. Arter passed through here Monday, enroute to Amanda with a load of blackberries.

Blackberries seem to be a scarce article in our part of the country this season. Peddlers are more plenty than berries.

Prof. D. C. Matz and wife called on Stoutsville friends Sunday.

F. A. Hartman, wife and daughters were Lancaster visitors Saturday.

Mrs. Ray Bussert is suffering with Malaria fever at this writing.

Therman Bros. were in our village buying lambs Wednesday.

Nelson Hedges was in our vicinity Tuesday morning.

Lewis Smiers and wife and Clara Morgan were the guests of David Kinser's, Tuesday.

Ed Hoffman called on Ray Bussert, Sunday.

Jacob Arter was at Amanda, Sunday.

Lightning Destroys Barn.

Pleasantville, July 14 —A large, new barn, owned by Josie R. Kraner, situated on the Hiram McNaghten farm, near New Salem, was struck by lightning and burned to the ground. The barn was full of hay and grain.